

November 12, 2014

Honorable Mayor and Council  
P.O. Box 27210  
Tucson, Arizona 85726-7210

Honorable Mayor and Council:

This month our Committee has reviewed the revised and expanded Reid Park Zoo Hippo Exhibit project, the County's Open Space Acquisition Program, and the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial. Below are our comments:

**BPAC Comment on Reid Park Zoo Hippo Exhibit:**

The Reid Park Zoo Hippo Exhibit project changed substantially in scope and cost since last spring. The BPAC has reviewed the revised scope and is pleased to report that this project continues to be our committee's priority project for the following reasons:

- The rescoped project increases the Zoo's revenue, and operations and maintenance of the new amenities appear to be fully covered.
- The rescoped project improves upon the existing facilities by providing more shade, air conditioned space, and a splash pad.
- The Zoo and its partner, the Reid Park Zoological Society, are a known entity with a proven track record of success.
- This project has a broad regional scope.
- The project provides a unique opportunity to better understand the animal kingdom.

**BPAC Comment on County's Open Space Acquisition Program:**

The BPAC agrees that the Open Space bond supports quality of life and provides critical space for recreation in addition to being an economic driver by increasing eco-tourism and jobs related to eco-tourism. Protecting more open space around metropolitan Tucson also promotes infill development and reduced sprawl.

**BPAC Comment on the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial:**

The Buffalo Soldiers Memorial was presented to the BPAC and we fully support this project for the following reasons:

- This project enhances the existing facilities at Quincie Douglas, including archives of the Buffalo Soldier collection at the Quincie Douglas Library
- This project is unique and it not only honors our military but it honors an important part of our history that is often overlooked or ignored
- This project has the potential to create a special area adjacent to a large undeveloped piece of property with a master plan – Bio Tech Park
- This project has a large educational impact for a modest investment

Finally, the BPAC is disappointed and very concerned that the County Administrator and the Pima County Bond Advisory Committee have cut City projects and are recommending additional cuts to City projects. Our committee has worked diligently over the past year to provide an equitable, carefully vetted project list. With city residents representing approximately 50% of the voting population and approximately 43% of the Pima County tax base, the committee believes the City's request is a very reasonable request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Liz Rangel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Liz" and last name "Rangel" clearly distinguishable.

Liz Rangel  
Bond Project Advisory Committee Chair